



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

March 3, 2004

RQ-2

Earl Scales, Treasurer  
Democratic Executive Committee of Florida  
214 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Response Due Date:  
April 2, 2004

Identification Number: C00005561

Reference: Year End Report (7/1/03-12/31/03)

Dear Mr. Scales:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above.** An itemization of the information needed follows:

-Your report does not disclose any payments for salary or wages on Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. 11 CFR §100.24 defines as Federal Election Activity, services provided by an employee of a State, district or local party committee who spends more than 25 percent of their time during that month on activities in connection with a Federal election. You are advised that payments for salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25 percent of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must be made with Federal funds only. Please provide clarification regarding the lack of payments for salary and wages disclosed by your committee.

-The Detailed Summary Page, on Line 18(a) Column A of your report, discloses \$197,130 in transfers from the non-federal account for allocated activity for the reporting period. However, Line 21 (a)(ii) Column A discloses \$178,635.24 as the non-federal share for allocated activity for the reporting period. While the non-federal account is permitted to transfer funds to the federal account for allocated activity, transfers for allocated activity must be made within a 70-day time period; no more than 10 days

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before or 60 days after the payment to the vendor. 11 CFR §§106.6(e)(2) and 106.7(f)(2) Please clarify the nature of the transfers-in from the non-federal account.

The Commission recommends that you immediately transfer back to the non-federal account, the total excessive amount which was received by your federal account outside the 70-day time period. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Insurance", "Payroll Taxes", "Tax", "Taxes", and "Unemployment Taxes". Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal election activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Signs". Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(1), expenditures for public communications (as defined by 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any such candidate for Federal office must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Only federal funds may be used.

Please provide further clarification regarding this activity, specifically whether it referenced and promoted, supported, attacked or opposed a clearly identified candidate for Federal office. If this is the case, please amend your report to properly disclose this activity as an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated expenditure, as appropriate, on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, respectively.

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If this activity was categorized incorrectly, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for this activity back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of the Detailed Summary Page discloses disbursements for activities on behalf of "Children's Burn Camp of North Florida". It appears that your non-federal account has transferred-in money to your federal account to help pay for these activities. By definition, a shared activity is one which benefits both federal and non-federal candidates or committees.

Please clarify the nature of these activities, specifically whether non-federal candidates or committees were included. If non-federal candidates or committees were not included in the activities, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for these activities back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule(s) H4 of your report to clarify the following description(s): "Contract Work", "Contract Work/DEC Outreach", "Infrastructure/Support", and "Office Supplies." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Please amend your report by providing the ultimate vendor for the disbursements itemized on Schedule(s) H4 with the purpose "Cashiers Check/Equipment Rental".

-Your report discloses limited payments for administrative expenses. Administrative expenses are payments made for the purpose of operating a political committee including, but not limited to, rent, utilities, salaries, telephone service, office equipment and supplies. Each state, district or local party committee utilizing separate federal and non-federal accounts is required to allocate any administrative expenses (excluding salary) between the accounts according to a fixed percentage selected on FEC Schedule H1. A Schedule H1 must be filed with the first FEC FORM 3X filed at the beginning of each calendar year. Payments for salary and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time on Federal

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election activities or on activities in connection with a Federal election must be made from a federal account and disclosed on a Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. 11 CFR §106.7

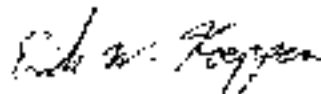
Any goods or services provided to your committee by a person, except volunteer activity (i.e., a person's time), would be considered an in-kind contribution from that person, and would be subject to the disclosure requirements of 2 U.S.C. §434(b)(3) and 11 CFR §104.13, and the limitations and prohibitions of 2 U.S.C. §§441a and 441b.

Clarification regarding administrative expenses should be provided during each two year election cycle beginning with the first report filed in the non-election year. Please provide the necessary information regarding administrative expenses incurred by your committee and/or amend your report to disclose such expenses according to the referenced provisions of the Act and Commission Regulations.

**Unlike previous election cycles, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter.** Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.** Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action.

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1136.

Sincerely,



Erik W. Koeppen  
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

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